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And

Inaugural Essay

on

Gonorrhœa

by

Charles Pearson

of

Penn<sup>a</sup>.

Exhibition

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Memorial of

Charles Cooper

## Gonorrhoea

By the term Gonorrhoea is literally meant a morbid discharge of semen from the Urethra in which the ancients supposed this disease to consist.

But Gonorrhoea is now clearly understood by the medical world to be a secretion of the lining membrane and glands of the Urethra.

Gonorrhoea was known as far back as the time of Moses; in whose laws a "Running of the Reins" is expressly mentioned and this circumstance has been used as we shall hereafter have occasion to notice, as an argument to prove the non-identity of Gonorrhoea and Syphilis.

How long it is after exposure to infection before Gonorrhoea or Clap manifests itself is uncertain, - it has been known to happen in a few hours, and in some instances not until the lapse of several weeks, in general we say from the third or fourth to the tenth or twelfth day, is the average period. This circumstance however, does not appear to have the least effect on the nature of the symptoms. Many cases where the running appeared early after

Enlightenment

The first step in the process of enlightenment is the recognition of the limitations of the human mind. This is a process that begins with the realization that we are not all-knowing and that our perceptions are often flawed. This realization is often achieved through the study of philosophy, science, and the arts. It is a process that requires a willingness to question our assumptions and to seek out new perspectives. The next step in the process is the cultivation of a rational and objective mindset. This involves the rejection of superstition and the embrace of reason and logic. It is a process that requires a willingness to follow the evidence wherever it leads, even if it challenges our preconceptions. The final step in the process is the attainment of a state of inner peace and harmony. This is achieved through the practice of meditation and the cultivation of a positive attitude. It is a process that requires a willingness to let go of our attachments and to embrace the present moment. The process of enlightenment is a lifelong journey that requires a commitment to the pursuit of truth and wisdom. It is a process that is accessible to all who are willing to undertake it.

exposure, have proved very mild, whereas on the contrary in some most obstinate and intractable cases, the disease has not been developed until a considerable time had elapsed.

Are Gonorrhoea and Syphilis identical diseases?

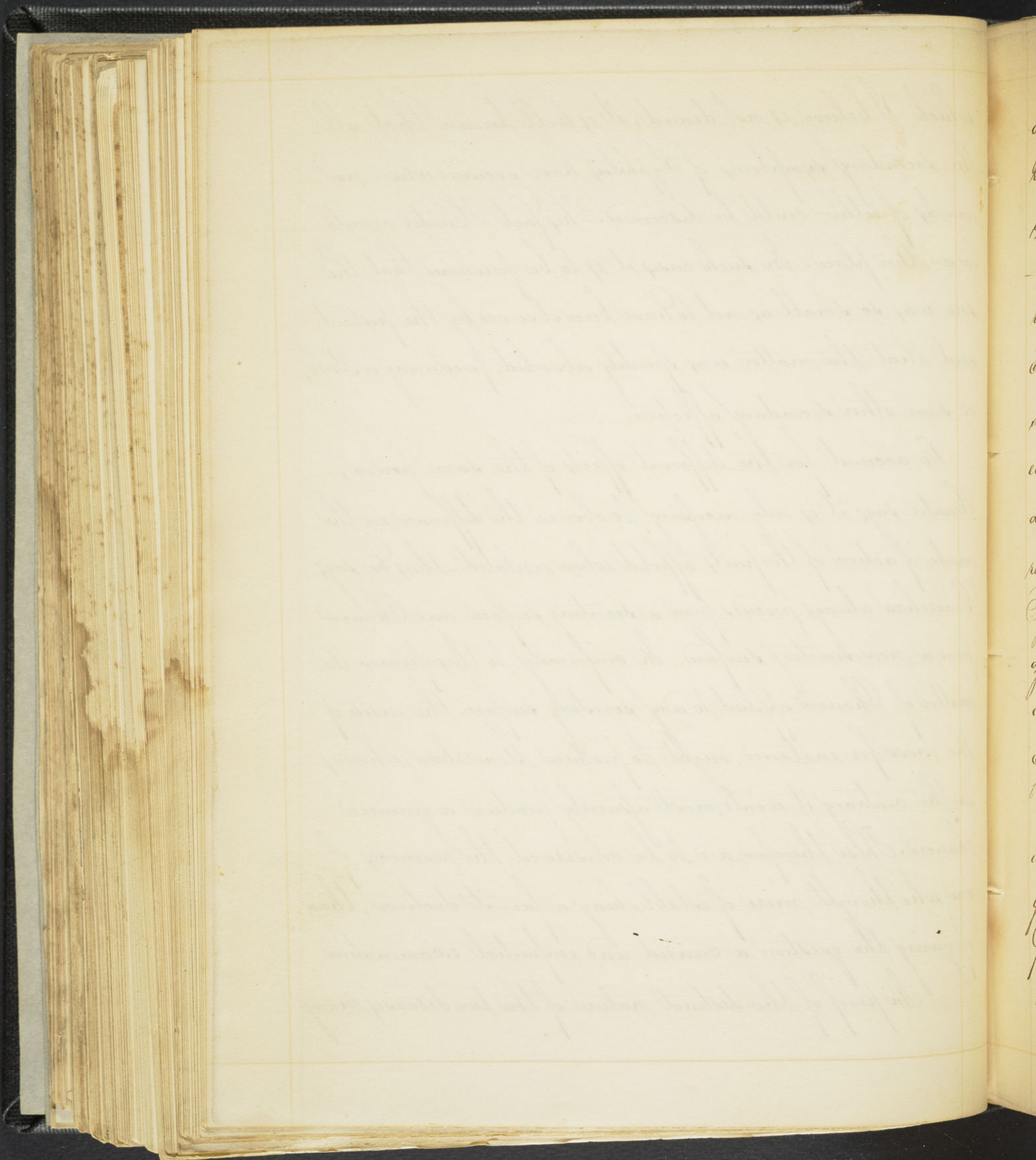
This is a question which has long agitated the medical world. The two great leaders in the controversy are Hunter and Bell. The former is an advocate for the affirmative, and in support of his position he advances some facts deserving of notice. His assertions with regard to the Island of Otaheite, I shall at present pass over, as they have already been sufficiently refuted: but I shall notice one or two of his arguments drawn from the nature of the diseases themselves. He asserts, that the matter produced in both is of the same kind: that is that the matter of Gonorrhoea will produce a Chancre and vice versa. Of the latter fact he gives no kind of proof at all, but in support of the former, he relates the case of a gentleman\* who had twice contracted a Gonorrhoea, and who about two months after each attack had symptoms of Lues Venerea. But setting aside the fact that Gonorrhoea and Chancre can both exist at the same time in the same person

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which I believe is not denied, it is well known that all the secondary symptoms of Syphilis have occurred where no marks of either could be discovered. This fact Hunter admits in another place. In such cases it is to be presumed that the sore was so small as not to have been observed by the patient, and that the matter was speedily absorbed, producing a Bubo, or some other secondary affection.

To account for the different effects of the same poison, Hunter says it is only necessary to observe the difference in the mode of action of the parts affected when irritated: thus he says, Gonorrhoea always proceeds from a secreting surface, and Chancre from a non-secreting surface. In conformity to this opinion the matter of Chancre applied to any secreting surface, the inside of the nose for instance, ought to produce Gonorrhoea; whereas on the contrary it would most assuredly produce a genuine Chancre. These therefore are to be considered, the resources of one who thought more of establishing a favorite doctrine, than of giving the question a candid and impartial examination.

In proof of the distinct nature of the two diseases, many



arguments have been advanced; some of which I shall enumerate. Gonorrhœa has existed from time immemorial. Syphilis is comparatively a new disease. Gonorrhœa is a local complaint, Syphilis very often effects the whole system. Gonorrhœa is very frequent; Syphilis is more rare. Gonorrhœa may be cured by topical applications, Syphilis generally requires constitutional treatment. Gonorrhœa will wear itself out spontaneously; Syphilis will always go on increasing until it produces death unless medical aid is interposed, and finally the remedy on which we place our chief reliance for the cure of Syphilis, is of no kind of service in Gonorrhœa. Many more arguments are used for the same purpose, but as the fact I am contending for is now pretty generally conceded, it is unnecessary to enter into any further details.

Gonorrhœa commences with a sense of fullness, and an unpleasant itching over all the under part of the penis, glans and orifice of the Urethra, the lips of which are not unfrequently a little swelled. These symptoms having continued a short time, a running next appears. The itching is now

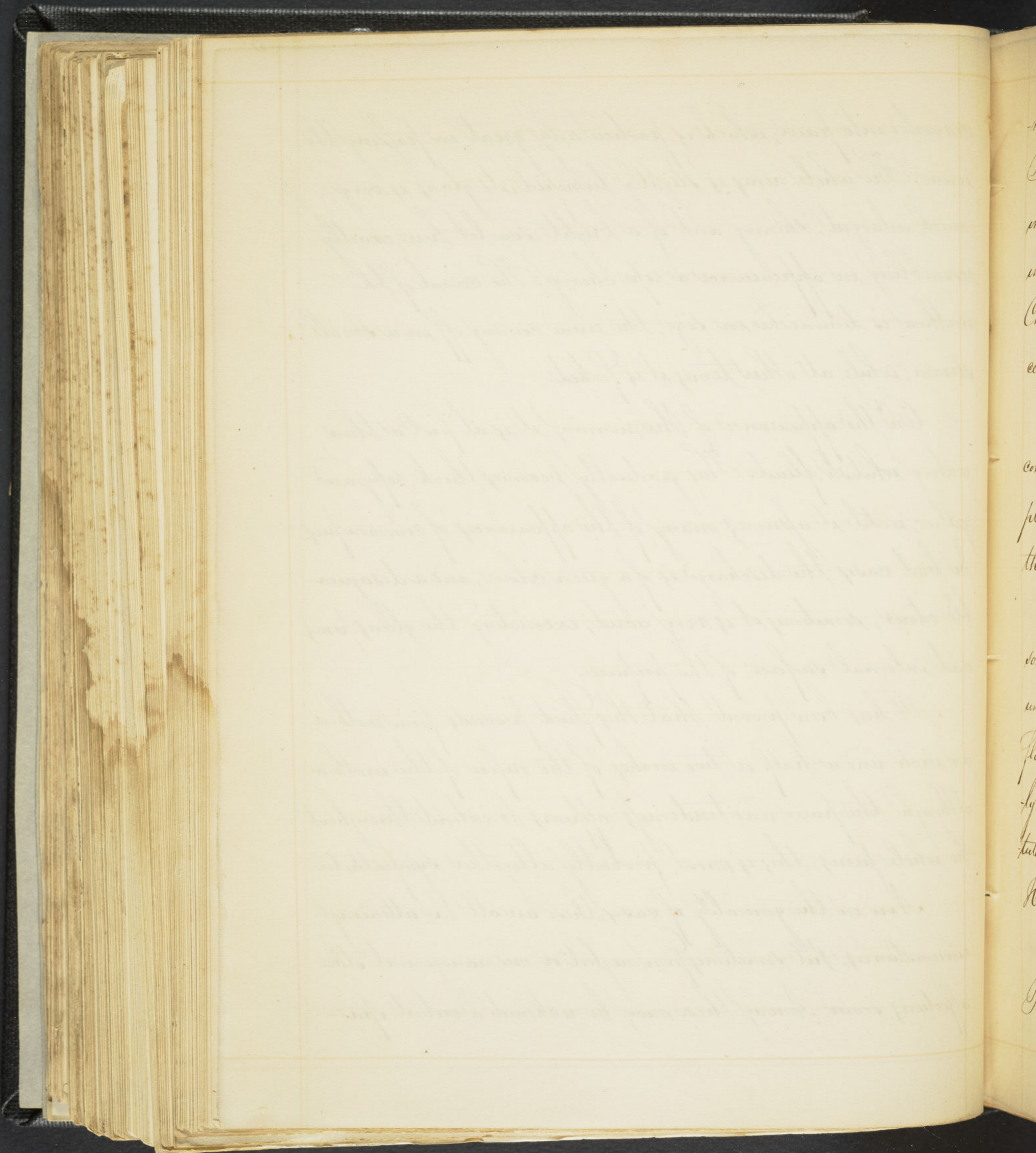


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converted into pain, which is particularly great in passing the urine. The whole penis is slightly tumefied, its glans is very much enlarged, shining and of a bright scarlet hue, exactly resembling in appearance a ripe cherry. The canal of the urethra is diminished in size, the urine coming off in a small stream, while at other times it is forked.

On the appearance of the running it is at first a thin watery whitish fluid. This gradually becomes thick,ropy and yellow, until it assumes many of the appearances of common pus. In bad cases the discharge is of a green colour, and a disagreeable odour, sometimes it is very acrid, excoriating the glans penis and internal surface of the prepuce.

It has been proved that this fluid proceeds from within an inch and a half or two inches of the orifice of the urethra although the pain and tenderness appears to extend throughout the whole penis; this is most probably altogether sympathetic.

Now in the generality of cases, these are all the attending circumstances. But sometimes from neglect or mismanagement other affections occur. Among these may be reckoned a violent spas-



modie involuntary erection of the penis, which is called Chordee.  
This generally takes place at night when the patient is warm  
in bed, and is in every instance very distressing. The penis is bent  
in a violent manner, and occasions the most excruciating pain.  
Chordee is probably owing to an effusion of coagulable lymph into the  
cells of the corpus spongiosum Urethra.

In other cases the Lymphatics of the Penis and groin be-  
come red, and symptomatic affections of the Inguinal glands take  
place. These swellings however differ from the Venereal Bubo, in  
their seldom or never advancing to suppuration.

Sometimes, either from improper management or  
some other cause, the discharge is suddenly stopped and all the  
uneasiness leaving the penis, is translated to the Testes, which in-  
flame, swell and become exceedingly painful affecting particular-  
ly the Epididymus and sometimes the spermatic cord. This consti-  
tutes the disease known among authors by the name of Hernia  
Humoralis.

In some cases the effects of the disease are felt in the  
Bladder, producing such extreme irritability in that organ that

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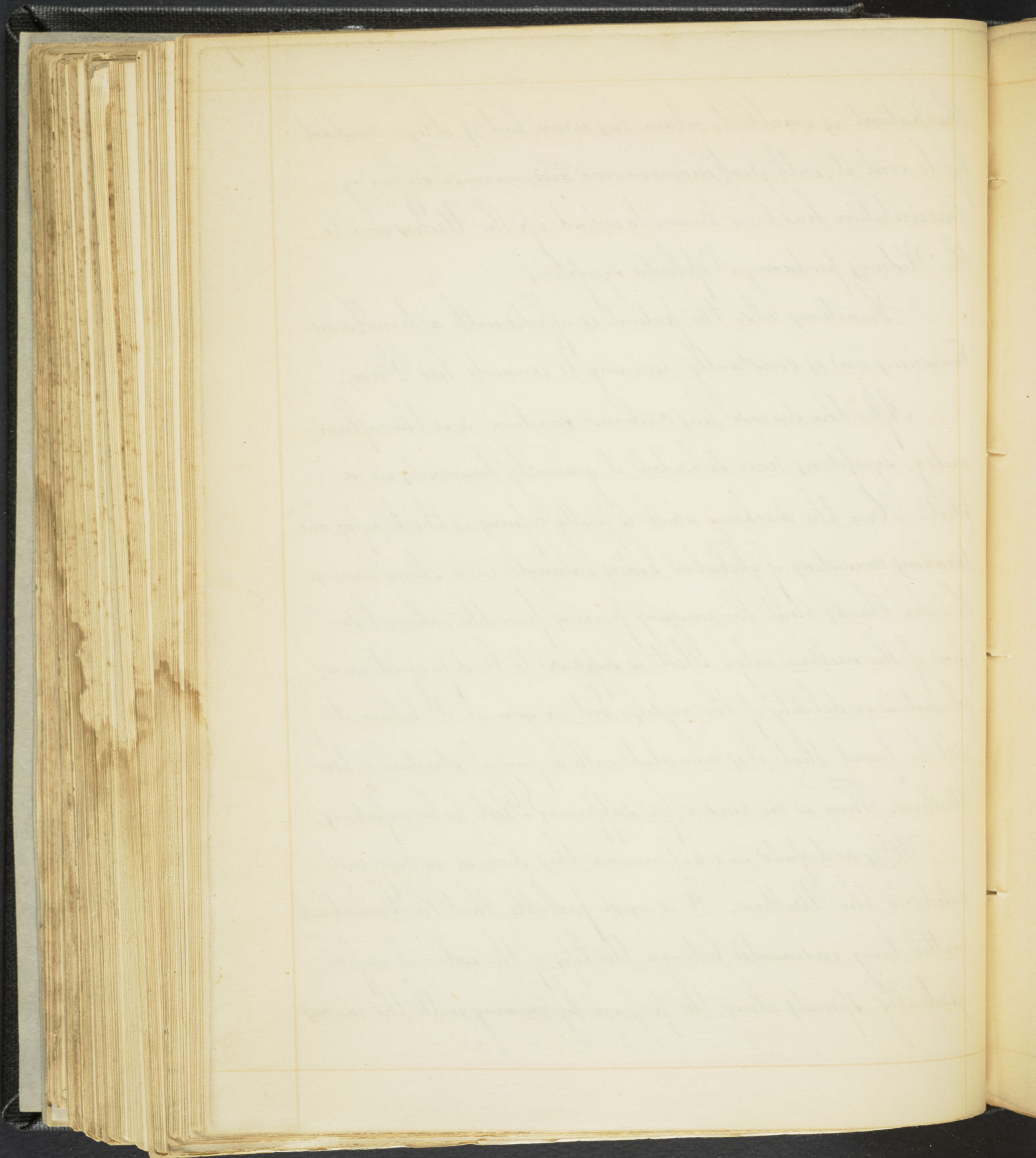
*[Partial view of the adjacent page on the right, showing handwritten text in cursive script.]*

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The patient is unable to retain his urine, but is obliged constantly to void it, with great inconvenience and immense suffering. The irritation has been known to extend up the Ureters even to the Kidneys, producing Nephritic symptoms.

Sometimes also the patient is affected with a troublesome Tenesmus and is constantly running to evacuate his Faeces.

After the disease has continued sometime, and the inflammatory symptoms have subsided, it generally terminates in a Gleet. Here the discharge which is pretty copious, is thick,ropy and tenacious consisting of globular bodies entangled in a slimy mucus. Hunter thinks that the running proceeds from the internal surface of the urethra only. Gleet is supposed to be dependent on a relaxation or debility of the vessels; but in general I believe it will be found that it is connected with a partial stricture of the Urethra. There is no reason for supposing Gleet to be infectious.

It is a dispute in what manner this disease is communicated to the Urethra. It is most probable that the Gonorrhoeal matter being insinuated between the lips of the external orifice, gradually spreads along the passage by mixing with the mucus

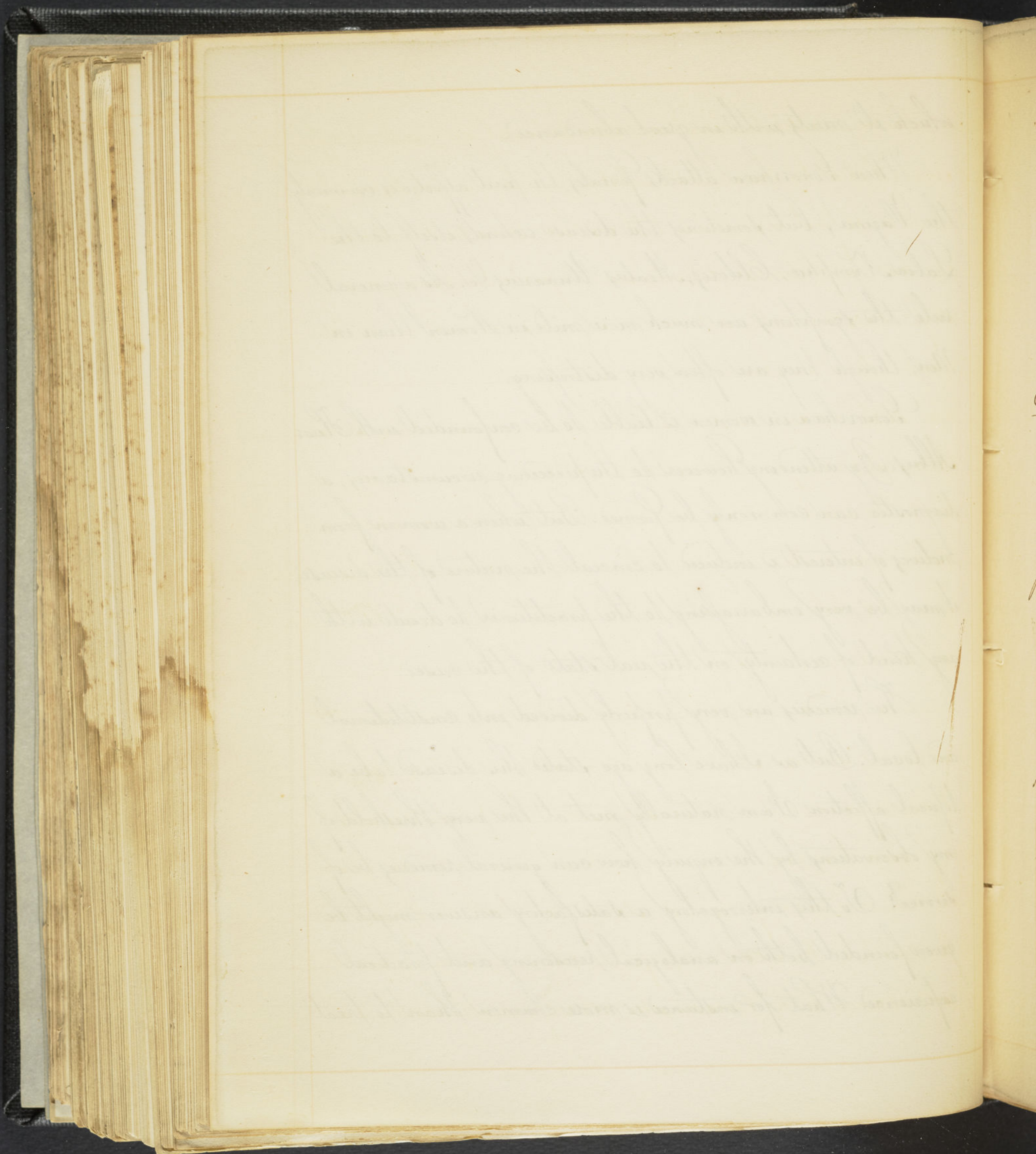


which it meets with in great abundance.

When Gonorrhoea attacks females, the part affected is commonly the Vagina, but sometimes the disease extends itself to the Labia, Nymphæ, Clitoris, Meatus Urinarius &c. As a general rule the symptoms are much more mild in Women than in Men, though they are often very distressing.

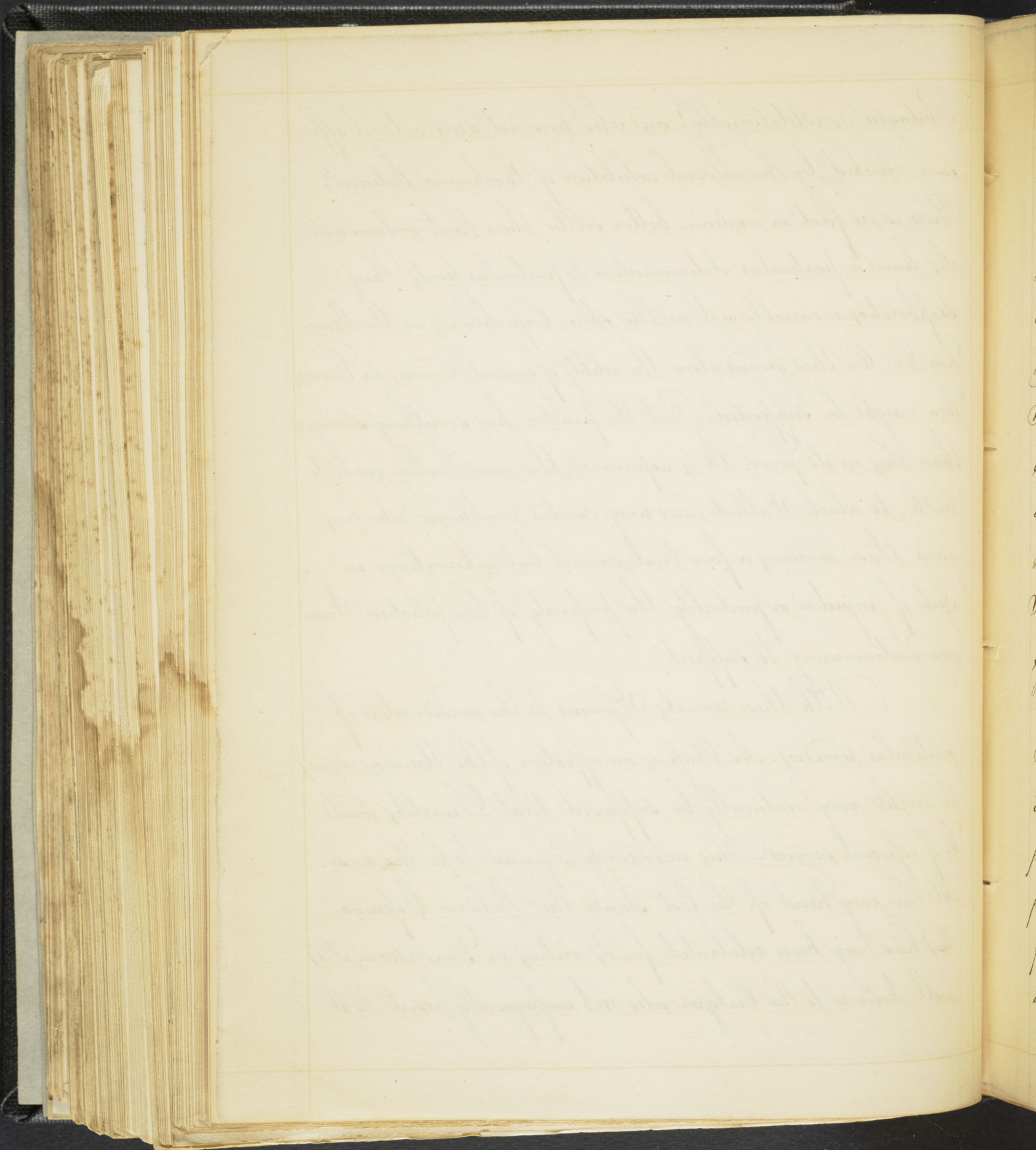
Gonorrhoea in women is liable to be confounded with Fluor Albus. By attending however to the preceding circumstances, a diagnostic can commonly be formed. But when a woman from motives of interest is induced to conceal the nature of the disease, it may be very embarrassing to the practitioner to decide with any kind of certainty on the real state of the case.

The remedies are very properly divided into constitutional and local. But as I have long ago stated this disease to be a topical affection I am naturally met at the very threshold of my observations by the enquiry, how can general remedies be of service? To this interrogatory a satisfactory answer might be given founded both on analogical reasoning and practical experience. What for instance is more common than to treat



Podagra constitutionally? and who has not seen a local affu-  
sion checked by the internal exhibition of Saccharum Saturni?  
There is no fact in medicine better settled than that certain arti-  
cles have a particular determination to particular parts. Thus  
diaphoretics invariably act on the skin, Expectorants on the Trachea &c On this ground alone the utility of general remedies in Gonorr-  
rhoea might be supported. But the practice has something stronger  
than this in its favor. It is experience, the never failing guide to  
truth, to which I allude, and every candid practitioner who has  
given these remedies a fair trial, cannot but acknowledge in  
spite of prejudice or partiality the propriety of the practice I am  
now endeavouring to support.

With these remarks I proceed to the consideration of  
particular remedies. As Clap is an affection of the Urinary organs,  
it might very naturally be supposed that Diuretics would  
be of especial service - This accordingly is found to be the case.  
At the very head of the list stands the Balsam Copaiva.  
This has long been celebrated for its virtues in Gonorrhoea, it is  
well known to the Vulgar who not unfrequently resort to it



without medical advice. Independent of its diuretic powers, it exercises a specific effect on the Urethra, and very often puts a complete stop to the discharge in the course of a few days. If ever there was a specific in any disease, we have an example in the case before us; and I should not hesitate to affirm that the Balsam is almost as certain a cure for Clap as Park is for Intermittent Fever. It is the custom with some to defer the exhibition of this article until the subsidence of all the inflammatory symptoms; but I have the highest authority for saying that it should be given at the very commencement of the disease. It is admirably well adapted to allay many of the distressing symptoms, as Aids, Urine Chordee &c

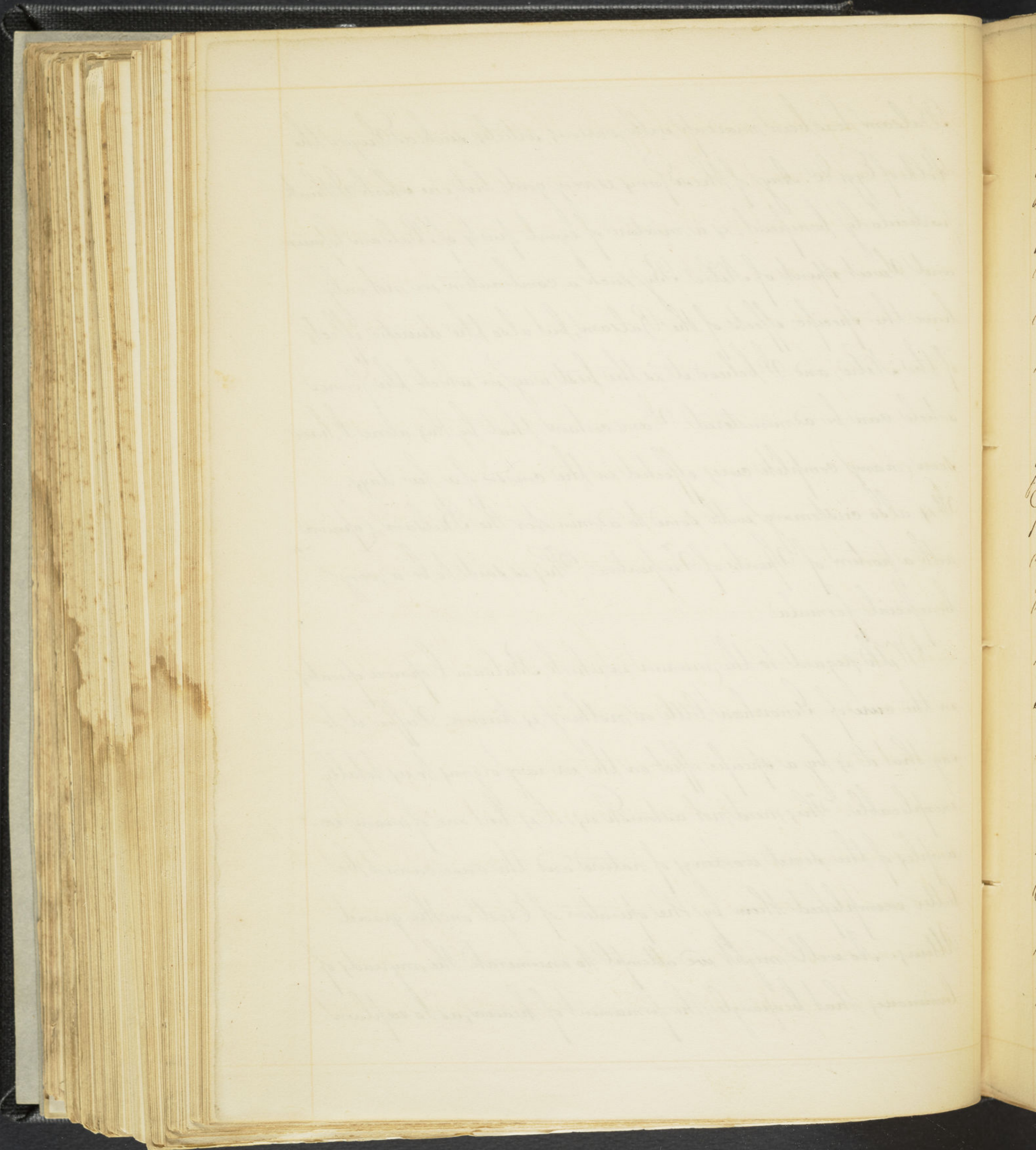
The ordinary mode of exhibiting the Balsam Copaiva is on Sugar, or mixed up with a little wine or Milk, in the dose of thirty or forty drops three times a day, or directly before each meal. To prevent its nauseating effects it has been customary of late to suspend it in water, and then add a little tincture of Wine, which forms it into a very small globule in this state it may be taken with great facility. The more completely to disguise its taste, the

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Balsam has been mixed up with various articles, such as Sugar, the Yolks of Eggs &c. Any of these forms is very good, but one which I think particularly beneficial, is a mixture of equal parts of Balsam Copaiva and Sweet spirits of Nitre. By such a combination we not only have the specific effects of the Balsam, but also the diuretic effects of the Nitre, and I believe it is the best way in which the former article can be administered. I am certain that by this alone I have seen many complete cures effected in the course of a few days. It is also customary with some to administer the Balsam Copaiva with a portion of Spirits of Turpentine. This is said to be a very beneficial formula.

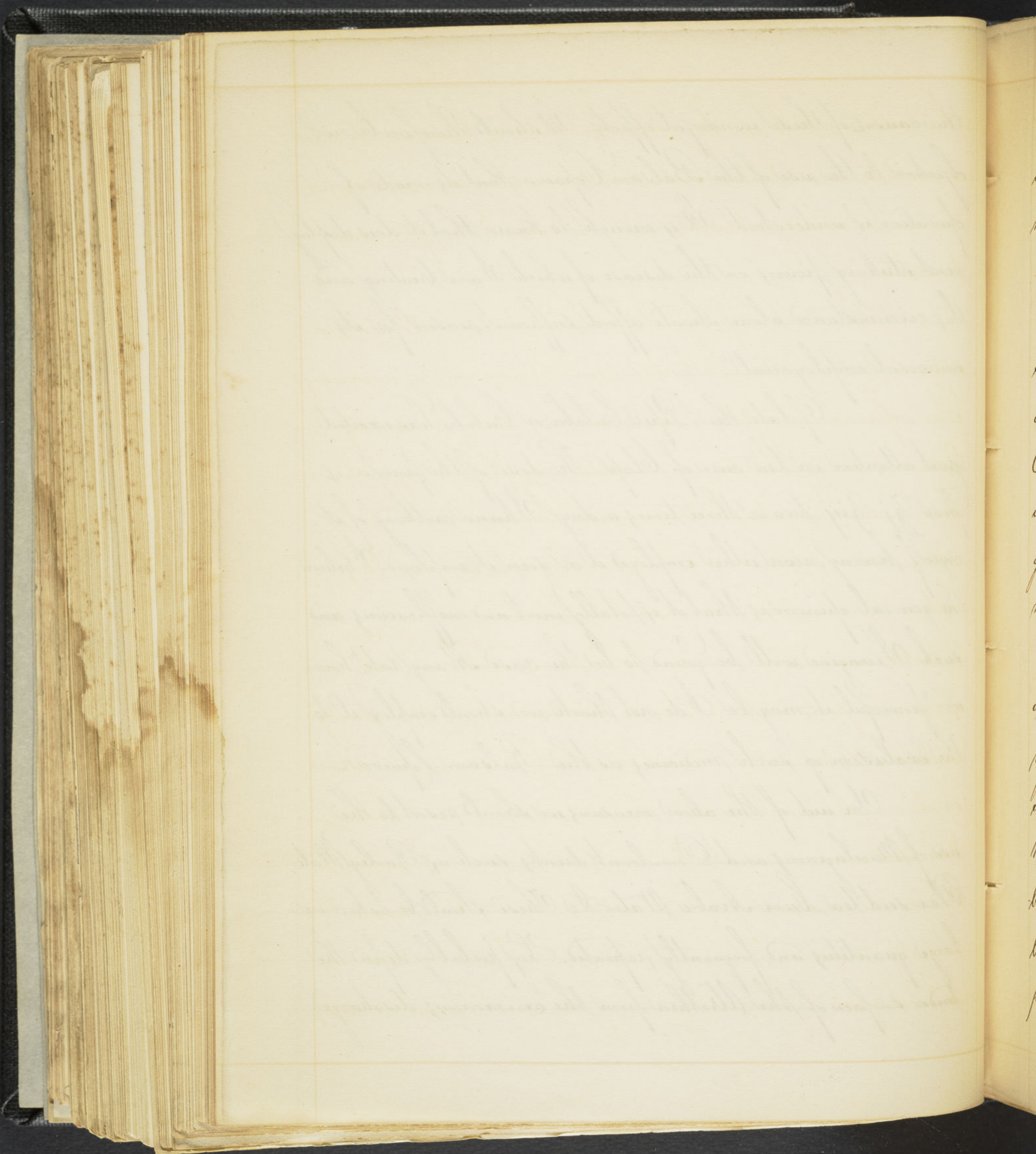
With regard to the manner in which Balsam Copaiva operates in the cure of Gonorrhoea little or nothing is known. Suffice it to say that it is by a specific effect on the urinary organs to us totally inexplicable. This need not astonish us, it is but one of many examples of the secret workings of nature and the case cannot be better exemplified than by the operation of Ergot on the gravid Uterus. As well might we attempt to enumerate the myriads of luminaries that bespangle the firmament of heaven, as to explain



the causes of these wonderful effects. It should therefore be no objection to the use of the Balsam Copaiva that its mode of operation is understood. It is enough to know that it does display most striking powers on the disease of which I am treating and this circumstance alone should afford sufficient reason for its universal employment.

Of late the Piper Cubeba or Cubeb's has excited great attention in the cure of Clap. The dose of the powder is from ℥j ℥iij two or three times a day. I know nothing of it myself having never either employed it or seen it employed. I believe the general opinion is that it is totally inert and inefficacious and such I imagine will be found to be the case. At any rate, however powerful it may be I do not think we should employ it to the exclusion of such medicines as the Balsam Copaiva.

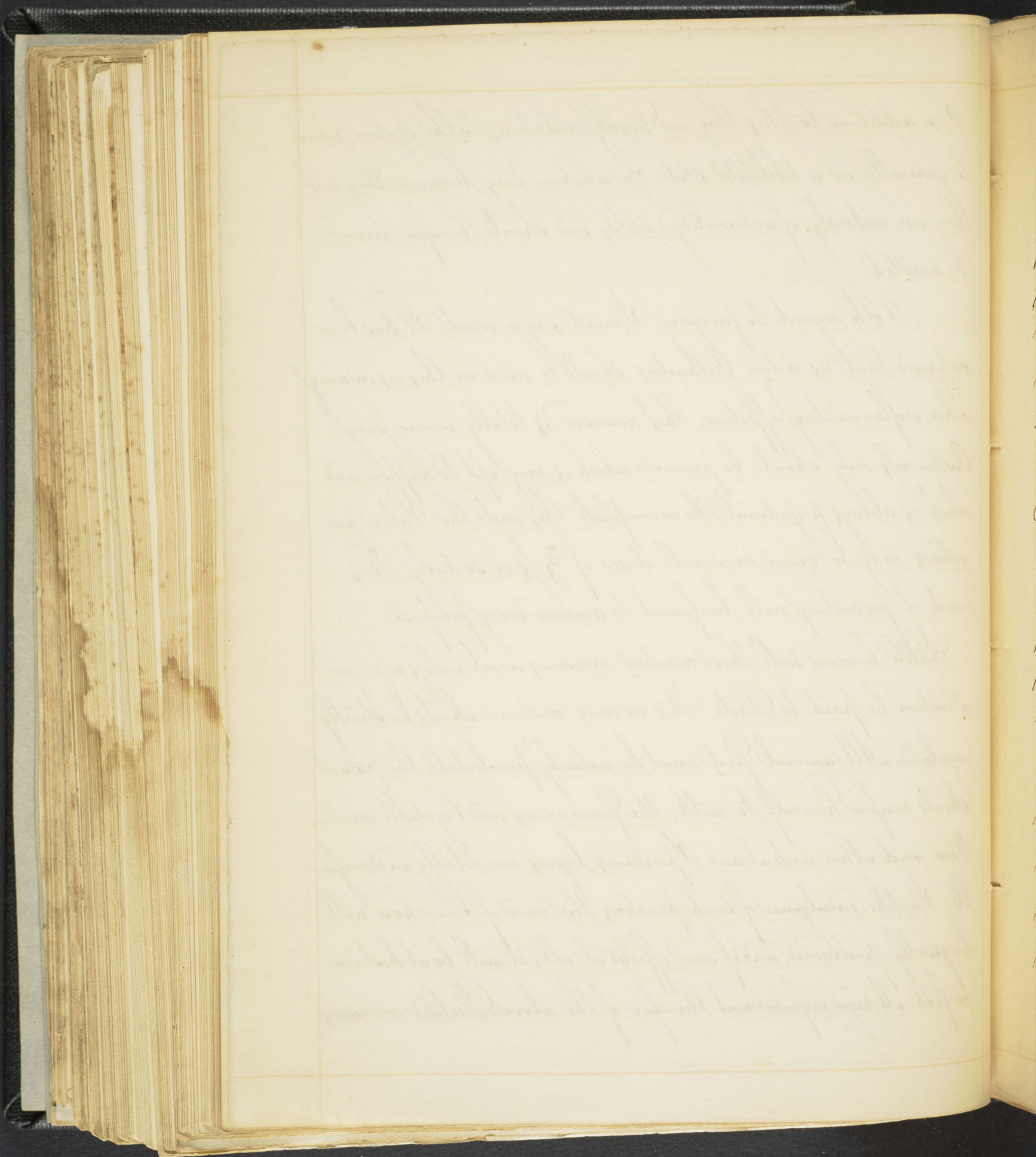
In aid of the above measures we should resort to the use of Mucilaginous and Demulcent drinks, such as Barley Water, Flax-seed tea, Gum Arabic Water &c These should be taken in large quantities and frequently repeated. They probably defend the tender surface of the Urethra from the acrimonious discharge



In addition to this they are highly nutritious to the system, which is generally in a debilitated state. In whatever way however they act, they are certainly of acknowledged utility and should therefore never be omitted.

With regard to purging I must say a word. It has been supposed that as active Cathartics should be used in this as in every other inflammatory affection. This however is totally unnecessary. Costiveness only should be prevented which is very apt to happen, and which is always prejudicial. To accomplish this end the Saline purgatives may be given in small doses of  $\mathfrak{z}\text{ss}$  or so daily. This mode of proceeding will be found to answer every purpose.

Little however will these curative measures avail unless a proper attention be paid to Diet. This in every instance should be strictly regulated. All animal Food must be entirely precluded, the patient should confine himself to milk, the farinaceous and Vegetable matters. Wine and other ardent and Spirituous liquors are totally inadmissible. In the indulgence of such practices the cure of Gonorrhoea will be greatly protracted, and if ever effected at all, it will be at best imperfect. A rigid enforcement therefore of the above Dietetic measures



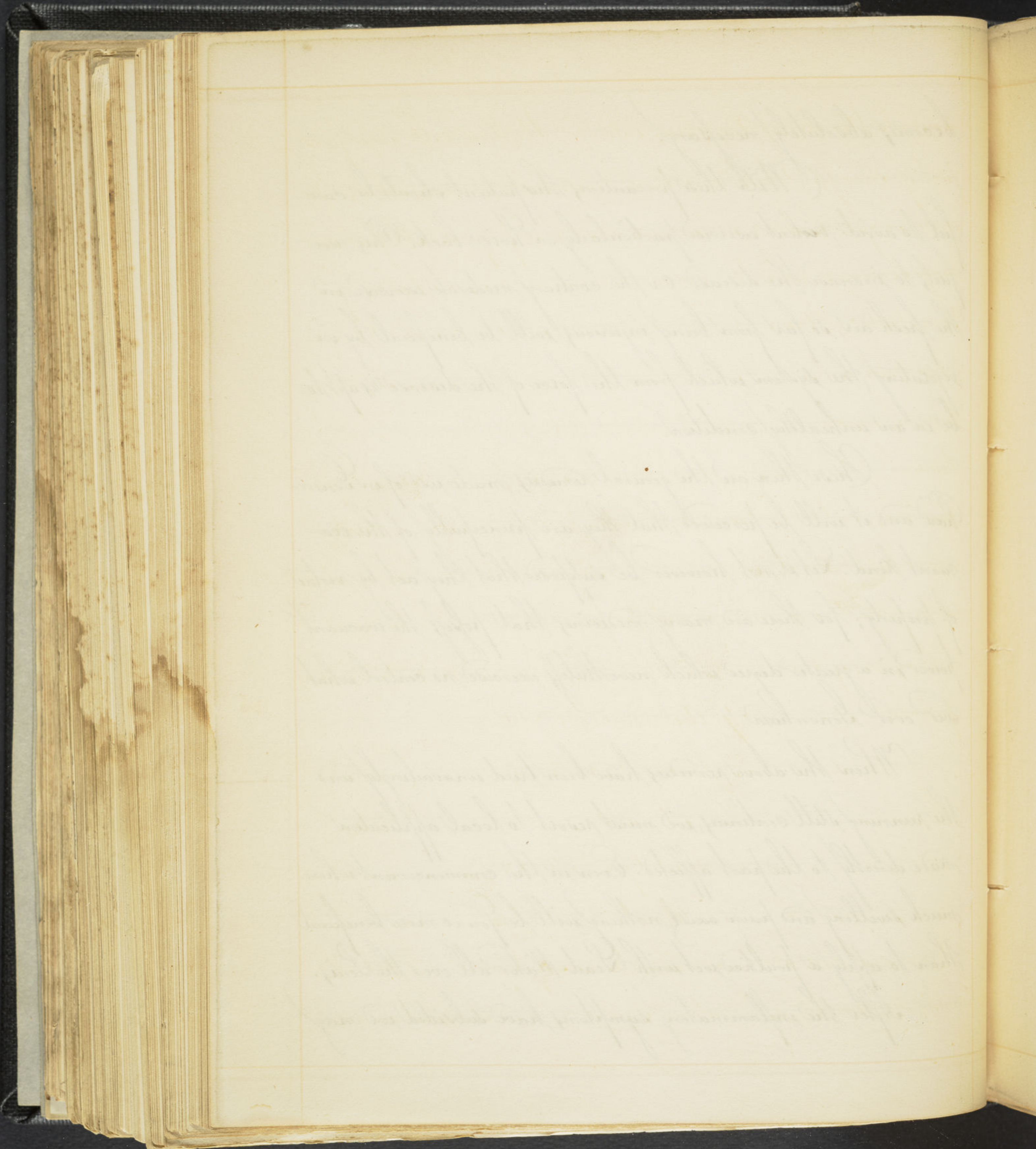
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becomes absolutely necessary.

With these precautions the patient should be careful to avoid violent exercise particularly on horse-back. This never fails to increase the disease. On the contrary moderate exercise in the fresh air, so far from being injurious, will be beneficial by invigorating the system, which from the force of the disease is apt to be in an unhealthy condition.

These then are the general remedies made use of in Gonorrhoea and it will be perceived that they are principally of the evacuant kind. Let it not however be supposed that they act by virtue of property; for there are many medicines that possess the evacuant power in a greater degree which nevertheless exercise no control whatever over Gonorrhoea.

When the above remedies have been tried unavailingly and the running still continues, we must resort to local application made directly to the part affected. Even in the commencement where much swelling and pain exist, nothing will be found more beneficial than to apply a poultice wet with Lead-Water all over the Penis.

After the inflammatory symptoms have subsided we may



recourse to the use of Injections into the Urethra, with some prospect of success. These have been composed of various articles, the more simple however are in every case to be preferred. At first we may commence with the bland mixtures, such as a solution of Gum Arabic, Flax-seed Tea, Rose-Water, Milk and Water, &c. Even cold water has succeeded. Afterwards we may use slight astringent injections, as a weak infusion of Oak or Peruvian Bark, Solution of the white or blue vitrol, or some of the Mercurial preparations, as the Corrosive Sublimate; the white Vitrol is most commonly employed: it is usually combined with the Sugar of Lead in the proportion of three grains of the former to four of the latter, in eight ounces of water. But the best I have ever used is the following formula

Rj Aet Zinc grs xiiij

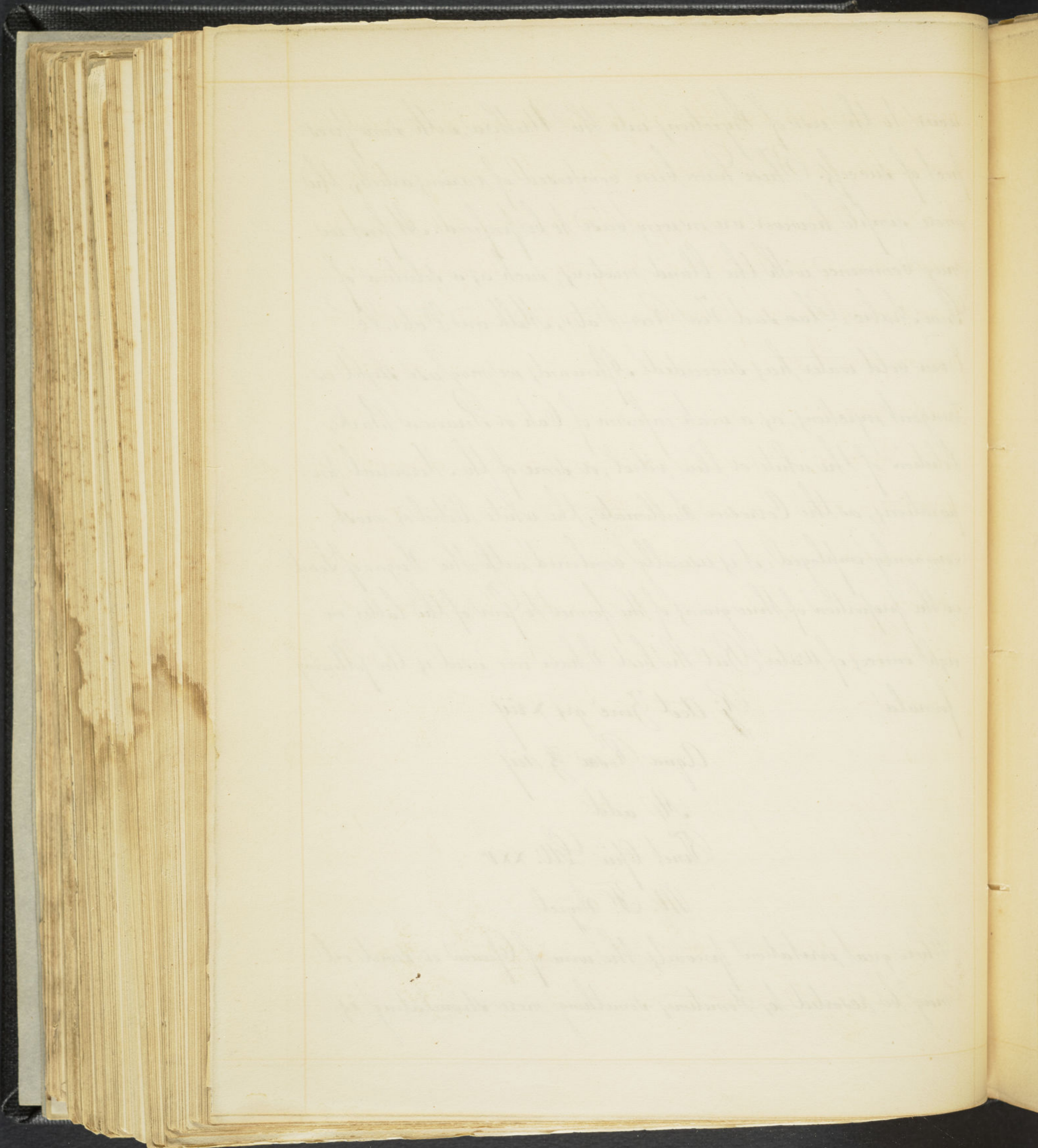
Aqua Rosae ℥ iiij

M add

Vinc. Opii ℥ss. xxv

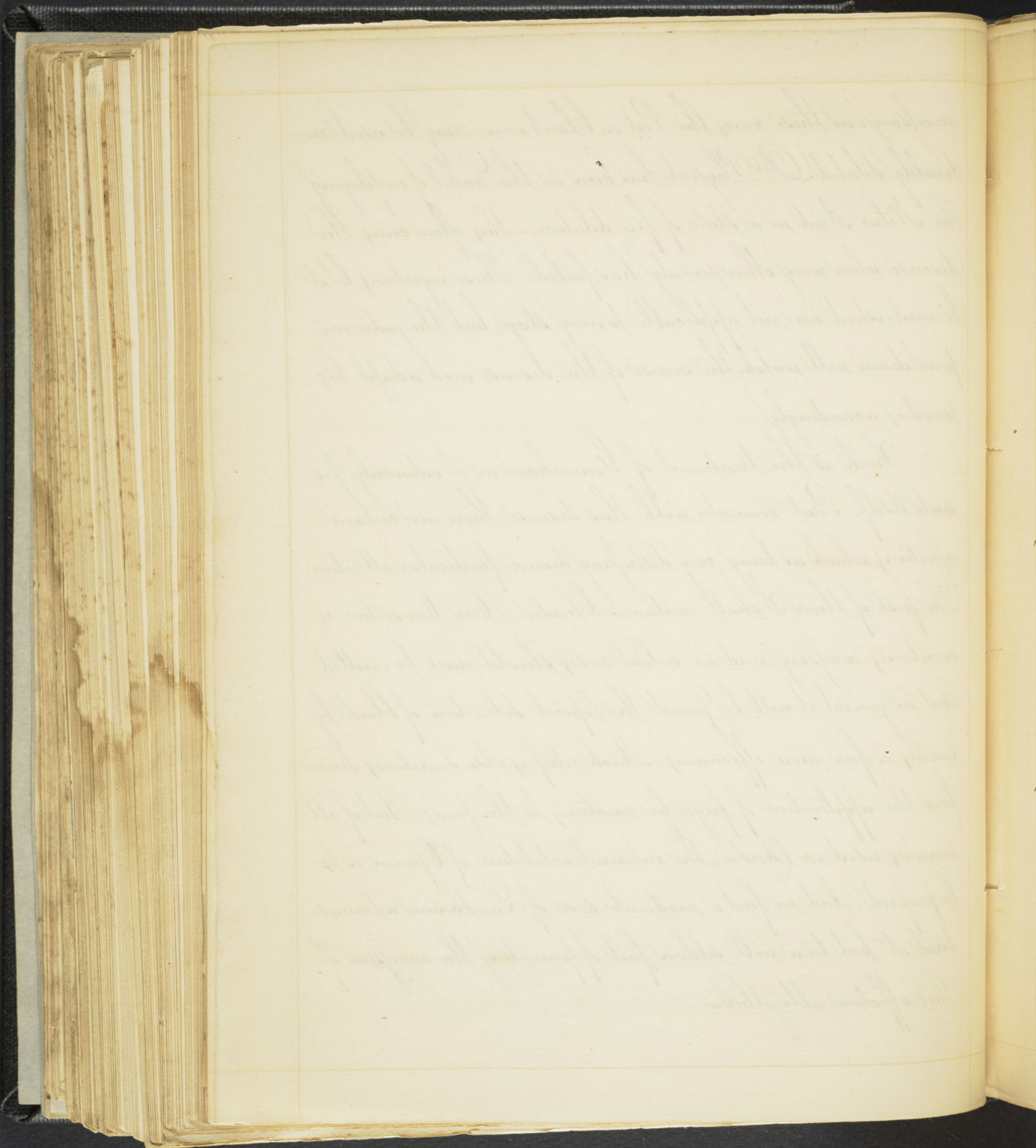
M. Et Injicet.

Where great irritation prevails the wine of Opium or sweet oil may be resorted to, Sometime, something more stimulating is



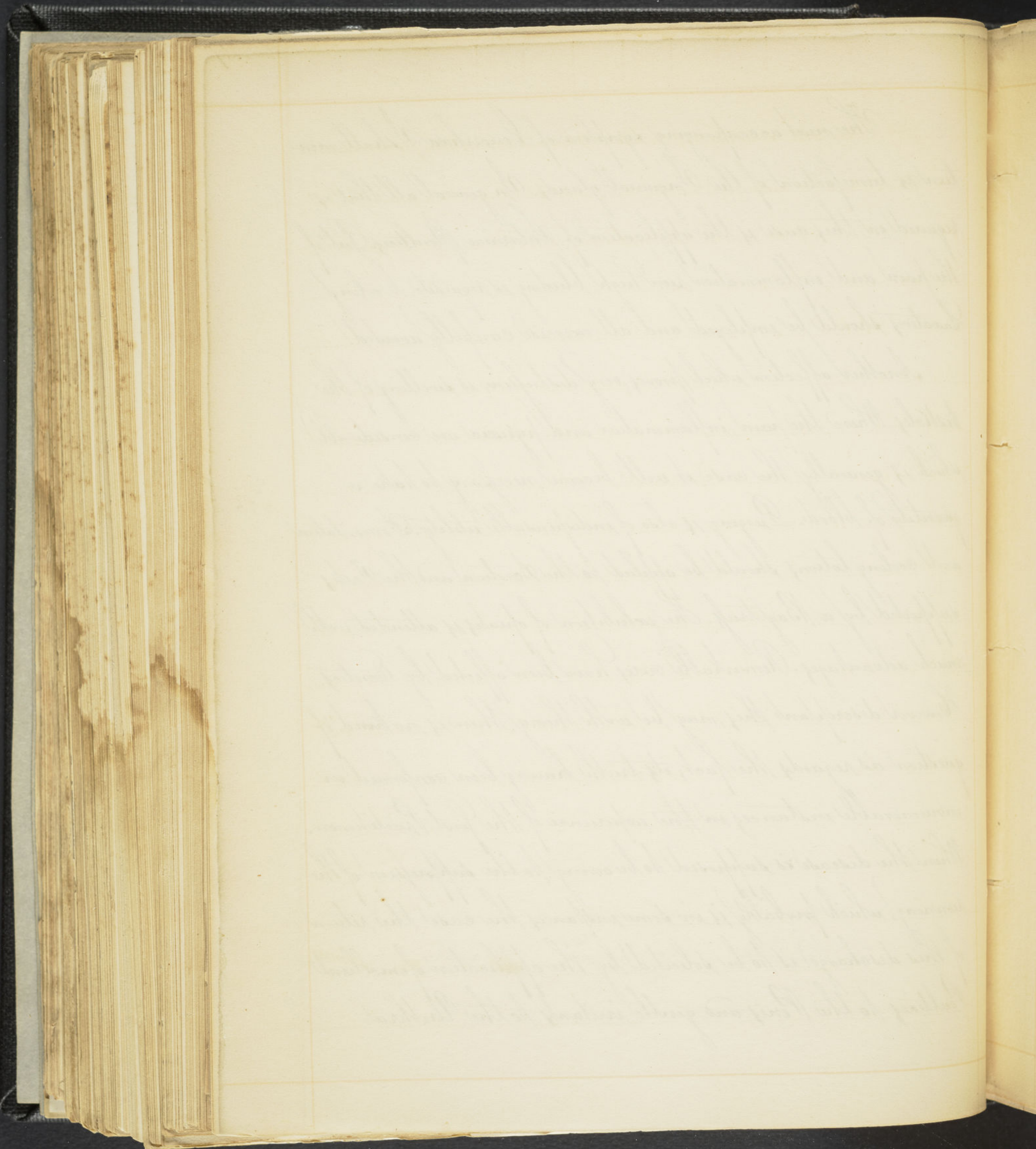
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necessary: in these cases, the Port or Claret wine may be used moderately diluted. Dr Physick has been in the habit of employing the Nitric Acid in a state of free dilution. - This often cures the disease when every other remedy has failed. These injections let it be understood are not applicable to every stage, but the judicious practitioner will watch the course of the disease and adapt his remedies accordingly.

Such is the treatment of Gonorrhoea as it ordinarily presents itself. But connected with this disease there are certain affections, which as being very distressing deserve particular attention. The first of these I shall mention is Chordee. Here Venesection is sometimes necessary, and in violent cases, should never be omitted. But in general it will be found the topical detraction of blood by leeches is far more efficacious. Much relief is also sometimes derived from the application of frigorific mixtures to the penis. But of all remedies used in Chordee, the internal exhibition of Opium is to be preferred. And in fact a moderate dose of Laudanum administered at bed time will seldom fail of preventing the accession of this affection altogether.



7.  
The next accompanying symptom of Gonorrhoea I shall mention is tumefaction of the Unguinal glands. In general all that is required in this case is the application of Saturnine Poultrices. But if the pain and inflammation run high, bleeding is requisite. Cooling Laxatives should be employed and all exercise carefully avoided.

Another affection which proves very distressing is swelling of the testicles. Where the pain, inflammation and pyrexia are considerable which is generally the case, it will become necessary to take a quantity of blood. Purging is also of indispensable utility. Fomentation and cooling lotions should be applied to the Scrotum and the Testes supported by a Bag-truss. The exhibition of opiates is attended with much advantages. Remarkable cures have been effected by Emetics. However discrepant this may be with theory, there is no kind of question as regards the fact; its truth having been confirmed in innumerable instances in the experience of the first Practitioners. When the disease is supposed to be owing to the suppression of the running, which probably is in some instances the case, the return of this discharge is to be solicited by the application of emollient Poultrices to the Penis and gentle irritants to the Urethra.



10.

Deranged sensations in the Bladder sometimes occurs —  
the principal remedies in such cases are bleeding, purgatives, opiates,  
blisters, electricity &c which the judicious practitioner will adapt to  
the urgency of the symptoms.

Gleet is supposed to be dependent upon universal debility.  
In such cases, which undoubtedly may occur Bark, Chalybeates,  
and other Tonicorants, may be employed Stimulating Diuretics  
as Balsam Copaiva or the tincture of Cream of Tartar are also  
of service; it is here too the tincture of Cantharide, has been used  
with great advantage. Astringent Injections are also productive of  
much relief. But Gleet is generally found to be owing to a par-  
tial structure of the Urethra. In such cases, the cure will of course  
depend on the removal of the exciting cause and this object will  
be best accomplished by the application of Bougies to the Urethra.

What  
is this

